

# Spain



**REGION: WESTERN EUROPE**

**Also included in this region:** Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

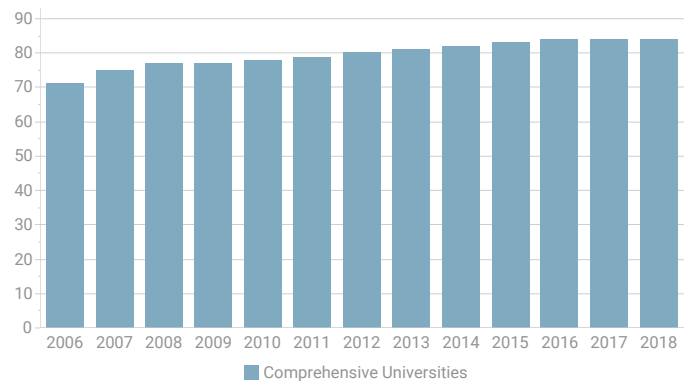
**PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

The Spanish HE system best fits the unitary model. Just over 80% of the country’s students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with the remainder attending HE programs within secondary schools. Enrolments rose by 10% between 2006 and 2018, a rate which lagged the rest of Western Europe. The number of HEIs rose even faster in our period of interest, causing average institution-size to decrease somewhat. Eighty-five percent of Spanish students attended public providers in 2018, compared to about 95% across the rest of Western Europe.

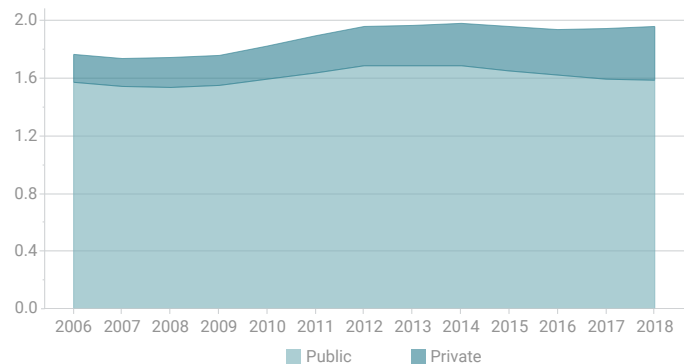
**TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers**

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive universities</b>	Universities	50	34	84
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	Higher education vocational education and training institutions; Arts and sports institutions	1983	980	2963

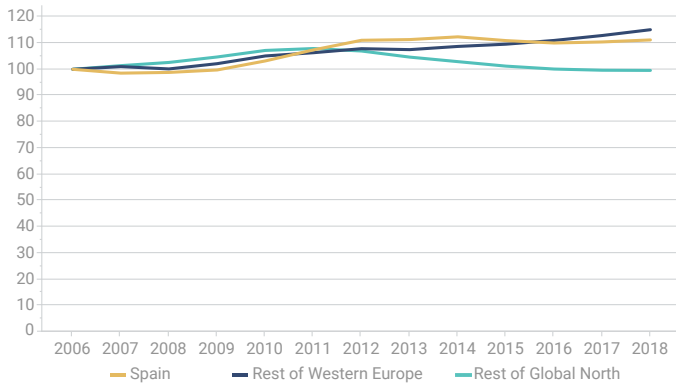
**FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018**



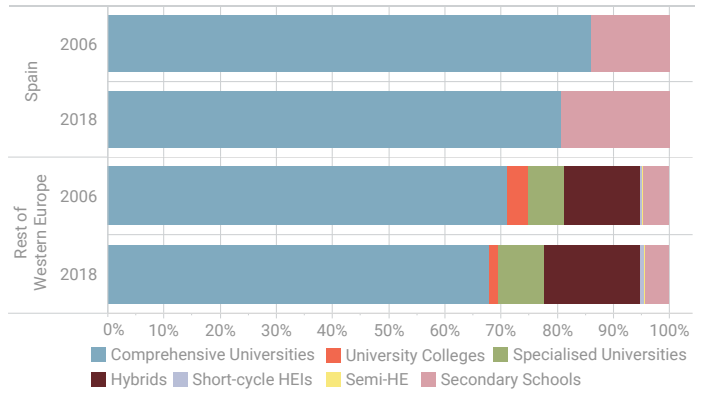
**FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)**



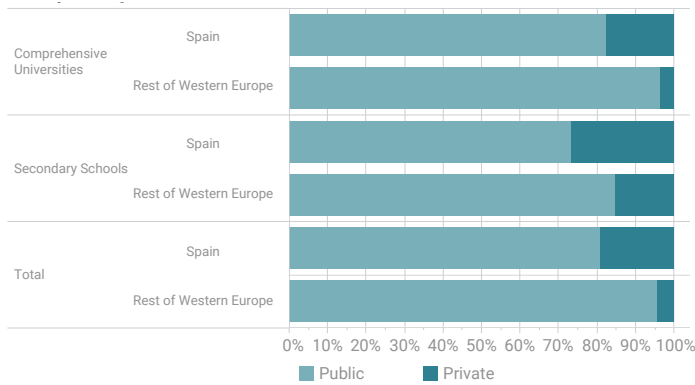
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Spain, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



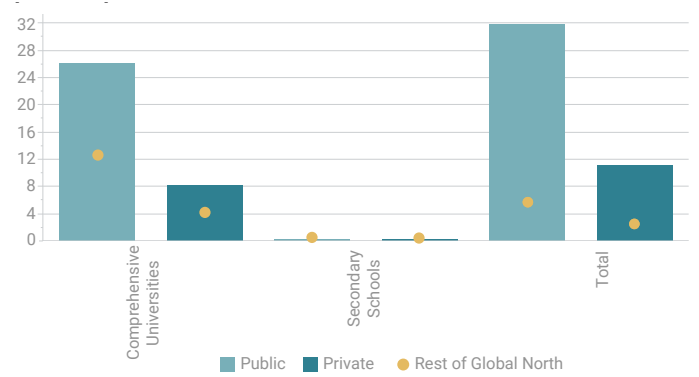
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Spain and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Spain and the rest of Western Europe, 2018



**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in Spain and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



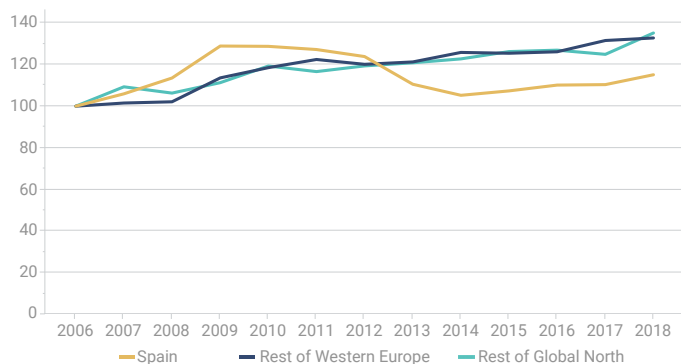
**University in Salamanca, Spain**



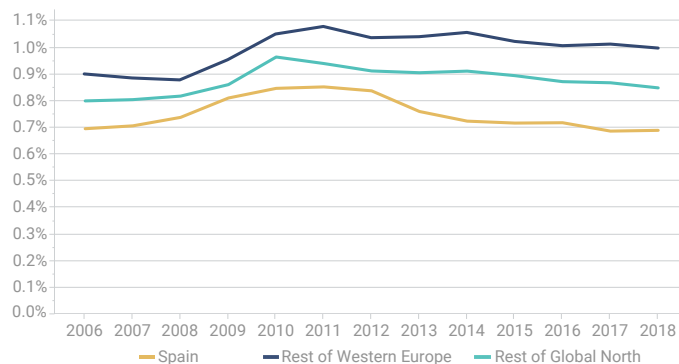
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Spain rose sharply in the early years of our period of interest but then dropped in a pronounced fashion in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis. Overall, the level of expenditure in 2018 was 17% higher than in 2006, meaning cumulative growth was slightly below the average for the rest of Western Europe. Relative to GDP, spending in 2018 was about the same as in 2006, and a level about 30% below the average for the rest of Western Europe. Total expenditures of public universities grew at more or less the same rate as total public spending, while total expenditures at private universities increased significantly more quickly especially after 2016.

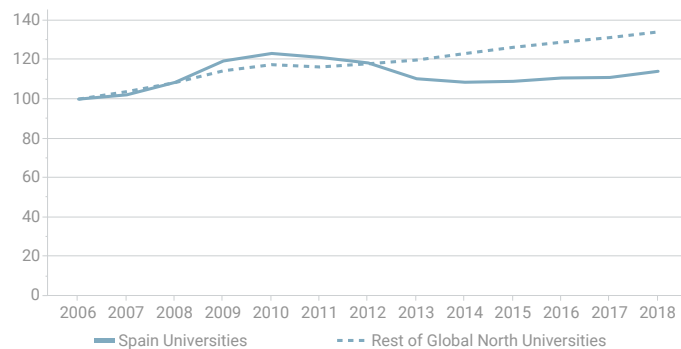
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Spain, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



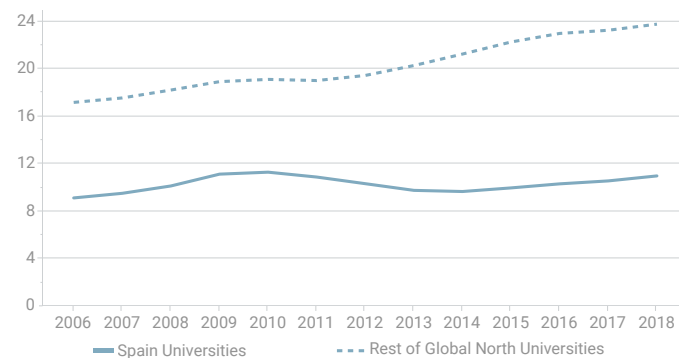
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in cSpain, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



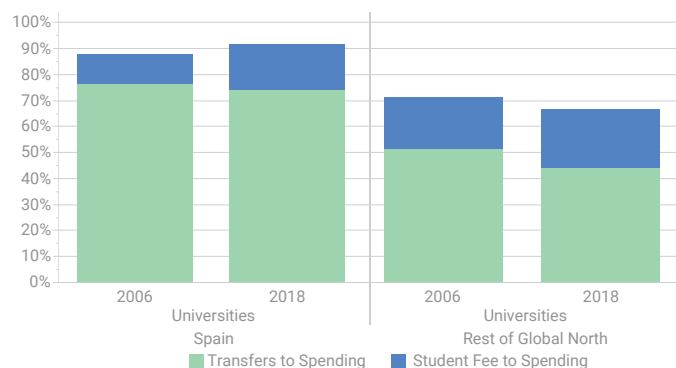
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Spain and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



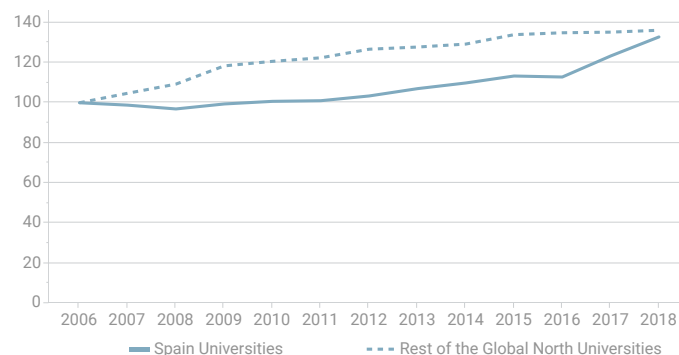
**FIGURE 10** – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Spain and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



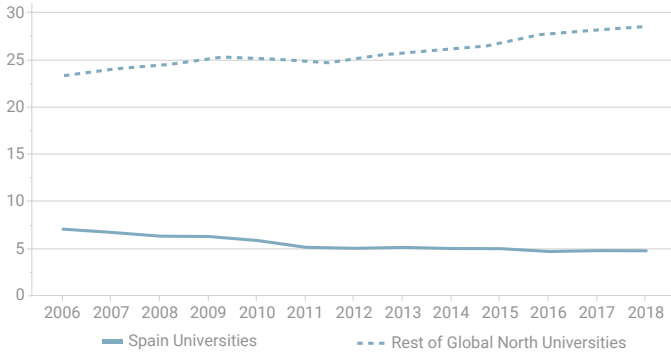
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type, in Spain and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



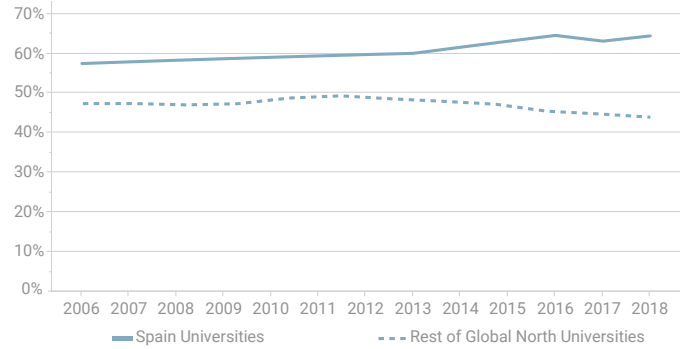
**FIGURE 12** – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type, in Spain and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 13** – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type, in Spain and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



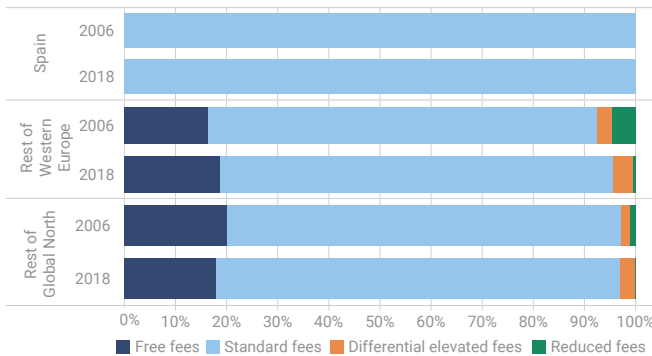
**FIGURE 14** – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type, in Spain and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



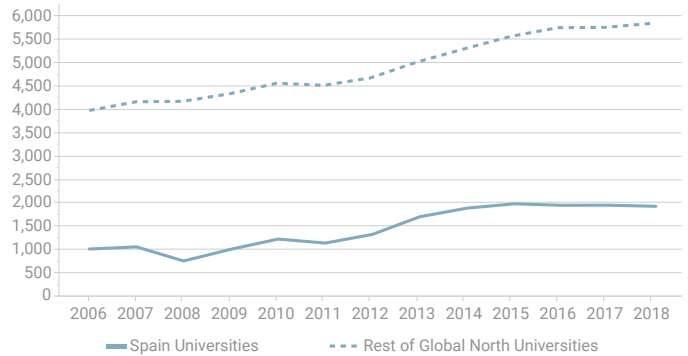
**PART III: STUDENT FEES**

All students in Spain pay fees, making it an undifferentiated fee-charging jurisdiction. At public universities, fee revenues per student more than doubled from 2009 to 2018, reaching USD 2,000 per student. Fees at private institution were somewhat higher in 2018, at just over USD 3,000 per student, having fallen relative to 2006 but remained at a stable level since 2011.

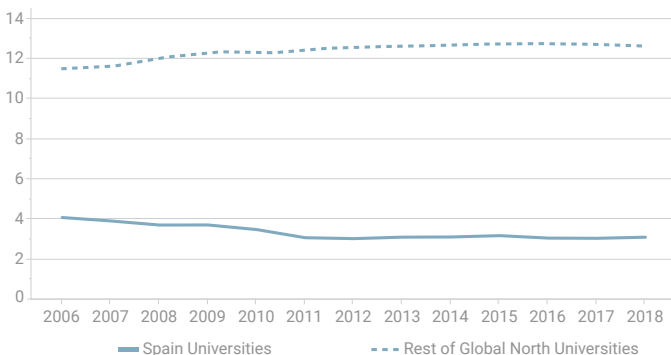
**FIGURE 15** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Spain, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



**FIGURE 16** – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 17** – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



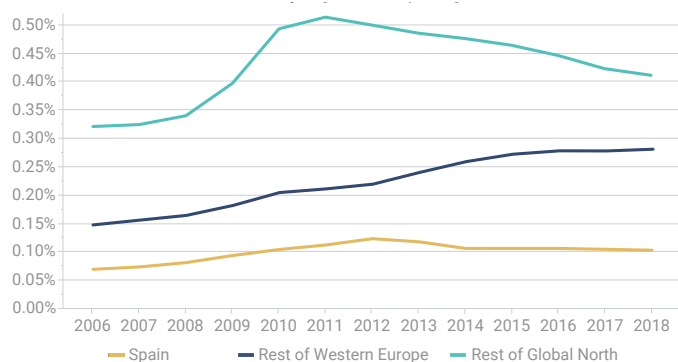
## PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Spain is grant-only. A loan program operated from 2008 to 2011 for Master's students, but never served more than 0.25% of the student population. Average grant value fell somewhat between 2006 and 2018, but the number of recipients more than doubled. In GDP terms, disbursements rose somewhat to reach 0.1% of GDP, one-quarter the average for the rest of the Global North and a little over one-third the average for the rest of Western Europe.

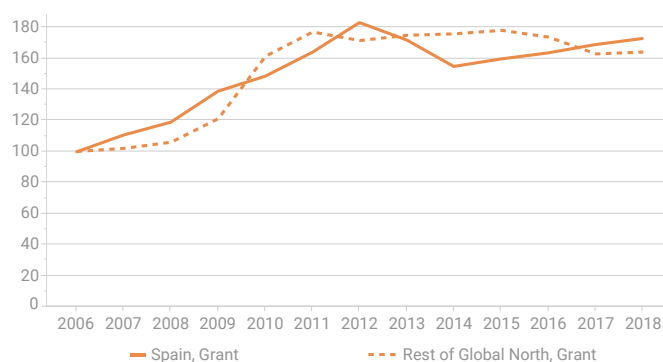
**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Central and autonomous community government grants	Need-based	717,395	1,919,023,016
Loans	Federal income contingent loans for Master's students offered briefly from 2008 to 2011	Optional enrolment	-	-

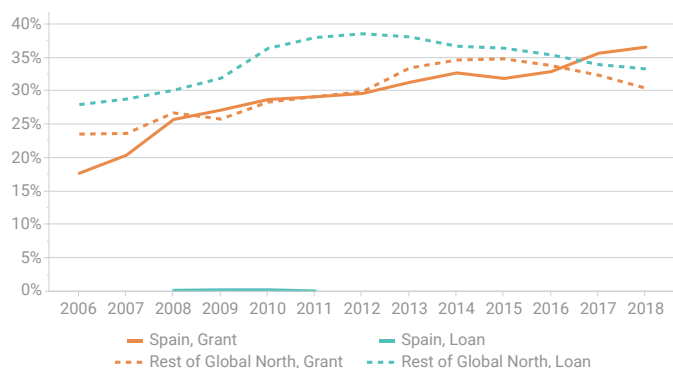
**FIGURE 18** – Student financial aid spending or total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Spain, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



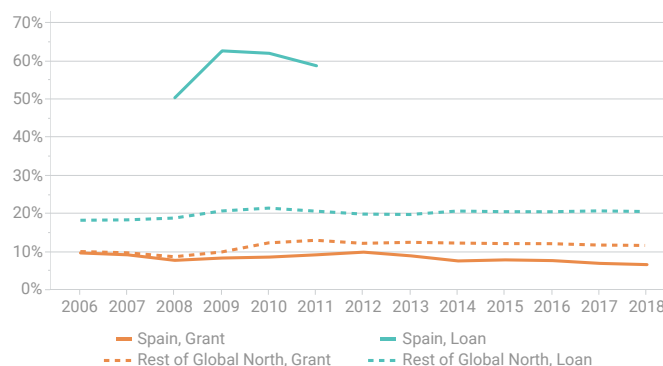
**FIGURE 19** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Spain and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 20** – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Spain and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 21** – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Spain and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



\*Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).